



The design process always begins with an idea. To help me find out more about you, your needs for this project, and as part of the search for that seed of an idea I've developed the following list of questions.

This survey is a means to explore the possibility latent in your project but it shouldn't be viewed with any rigor at all. If there are questions you don't feel like answering or that don't apply to your situation, by all means, skip over them. Equally, if there are ideas or insights you have that aren't addressed, it would be helpful to know about those too.

The earlier we can establish a common visual language the more smoothly I find the process proceeds. Often this will include collaborating on a shared Pinterest board. Please send an invite to me via Pinterest if this is a tool you use already.

Let's get started...



PROJECT INFORMATION + GOALS

Define the project scope. Include everything we'll be designing or planning for together: Renovation, Addition, New Construction, Outbuildings, Garage, Pool, Guesthouse, Barn, Shed, etc.

BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR PROJECT

WHAT ARE THE PROJECT GOALS? WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO ACHIEVE?

SCHEDULE

When would you ideally begin construction? Is your timing flexible?

EXISTING DOCUMENTATION

Lot Description Plan (Realtor)	Yes	No
Site Survey	Yes	No
If Yes, is it digital (PDF, DWG)	Yes	No
Topographic Survey	Yes	No
Boundary Survey	Yes	No
Existing House Drawings	Yes	No
If Yes, are they digital (PDF, DWG)	Yes	No
Known Development Restrictions	Yes	No
<i>Circle all that apply: Access easements, Wetlands, Flood zones, HOA/DRC Review (restrictive covenants), ACOE, FDEP, etc</i>		

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Are there obstacles, constraints or special needs that may influence the project, in design, time or cost? Access, occupation during construction, site contamination, special permitting procedures?

ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION BUDGET

What resources do you plan to commit to the project? The construction budget typically does not include soft costs - design fees, engineering, or permitting. We'll work on this together to make sure it matches the project goals and space requirements, we'll use this as a starting point.

Do you anticipate this project being negotiated with a single contractor or put out to bid with several different contractors?

**SITE**

What do you consider special about the place you've chosen to live - your building site?

How do you envision this project relating to your site? Does it sit above it? Is it nestled in it? Is it a combination of both? Does it defer or dominate?

Are there significant site features the home should orient to or away from? Views, trees, neighbors, water bodies?

Are there particular interior spaces that should orient to particular exterior views or locations? Please describe any transition areas between the house and site (decks, terraces, walks, porches). Please describe any significant outdoor spaces required (lawn, courts, pool, terraces, gardens) or activities to plan for.

How do you envision arriving to your home?

Vehicle requirements? Garage? Carport? Parking spaces, equipment provisions, parking court, turning areas, loop drives?

Describe your attitude toward vehicles (hidden, on display, indifferent) Describe any site access constraints (long drive, easements, etc.)

Gardens? Access to?

Will you be involving a landscape architect in your project?

Who will be living in the home? What's the purpose? Is it a vacation retreat, family gathering spot, a place to raise your family, a place to entertain clients?

If you build it, who will come? Guests, friends, family? How many at a time?

What leisure activities are important to you? Do they take place in the house or on the property? Anything special required to accommodate those activities?

What work activities are important to you? Do they take place at home? In a dedicated space? Anything special required to accommodate those activities? Are work and home compartmentalized and kept separate?

Is there a particular style that you relate to or like?

Are your sensibilities formal, modern, casual, country, minimalist, industrial or an eclectic combination? Any one you gravitate toward more than another?

What feeling should the finished home convey: calm, energizing, vibrant, relaxed, high-energy, formal, campy, insert your own descriptor?

Do you entertain often? For how many?

Is cooking a priority? Should the kitchen incorporate professional equipment?

Do you envision a kitchen open to other spaces? Enclosed and separate?

Is the kitchen a place to eat as well, or just prepare?

Is there a separate dining space? Formal, informal? How large is your dining table?

Is TV or movie viewing a focus, occasional, or unimportant? How does it relate to your living spaces (separate space or integrated)?

Is music (playing, listening) a focus? Should it be incorporated into the design? Any large instruments to be accommodated (piano, drums)?

Do you regularly read for pleasure, if so where? Is dedicated book storage important?

Any special equipment (exercise, tools) to accommodate in the house?



Where do you spend most of your time in your current home? What's the character of that space (cozy, open, bright, dark)?

Are high ceilings important to you or do they seem wasteful?

What's your predominant color sense? Bright, colorful, muted, neutral, earthy?

Are you sensitive to sounds? Should certain spaces be sound isolated from others?

Do you anticipate an elderly family member living with you in the future? Should this be provided for in the design?

Describe any important adjacencies between rooms? Bedroom must be near the library, etc.

Is single-level living an important design consideration? All spaces, or certain ones?

Is there a particular way that you would prefer to work with me or something for me to be aware of or be sensitive to? What's your preferred mode of communication?

Is there anything else I should know about you or your family that might impact the project?

**ABOUT THE ARCHITECTURE:****RENOVATIONS + ADDITIONS**

If your project is a renovation, should the fundamental character of the space be altered + reinvented, reinvigorated, or restored?

What do you like about the existing structure?

What would you change about the existing structure?

Does the existing structure adequately meet your space needs? If not, where specifically is it lacking?

How much time do you spend in the living areas, bedroom, kitchen, outdoors?

Is there a favorite space in the existing house? Why?

Is there something that must be preserved about the existing structure? Something sentimental or otherwise?

Are you open to the possibility of demolishing the existing structure and starting from scratch? When estimating the cost of renovation work it is always on-par with or more expensive than new construction.

If you're considering an addition, what spaces should the addition contain?

What relationship should the addition have to the existing? Connected, separate, similar, different, distinguished?

Please list any existing liabilities or hazards that you're aware of: geotechnical, structural, mechanical, energy, mold, rot, envelope problems, code/zoning non-compliance, etc.

NEW CONSTRUCTION + ADDITIONS/RENOVATIONS

Please list all of the spaces you'd like to include in the scope of work. This is a wish list. For each of the major spaces it's useful to list the character of those spaces as well (wood ceilings, cozy, bright, dark, etc.)

Are there any of these spaces that you would deem less important or that could be eliminated if budget were an issue?

Do you have an idea of the final size of the home (SF, # of floors)?

List any critical adjacencies here (office near entry, bathroom away from living, etc.)

Please describe any architectural preferences, inspirations or stylistic predilections that would influence the design (i.e.: you absolutely hate shed roofs, etc.)

Are there special features that should be included in the design (fireplace, bowling alley, sunroom, etc.)?

Any particular material preferences or dislikes (concrete floors, hardwood, plywood, steel, glass, granite, shingles, think both exterior + interior)? Do you prefer natural materials to synthetic?

Are you interested in alternative energy sources: geothermal, solar, wind?

Will this be a year-round home?